



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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October 1, 1997

William J. Stremmel  
544 Central Avenue, #223  
Alameda, CA 94501-3751

Dear Mr. Stremmel:

Governor Wilson has asked me to respond to your letter of September 5, regarding California's water needs and your proposal urging construction of pipelines to directly connect our major water project reservoirs upstream of the Delta with the project pumps.

At the outset, let me say that I appreciate your interest in these issues and your taking the time to share your suggestion. As you obviously understand, water in California is a critical issue that must be addressed to sustain our quality of life, economic prosperity, and natural resources.

The issues you raise regarding competing interests and the need to maximize efficiencies in managing California's water supplies are exactly the issues to be addressed by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The CALFED effort is an historic cooperative enterprise of the State and Federal governments along with the public and interested constituency groups to develop a long-term, comprehensive solution to environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system.

I have taken the liberty of including, for your information, some recent material describing the Program and the alternatives which are the subject of ongoing analyses. I hope you find them informative. I have also directed our staff to add your name to our mailing list so that you will receive periodic meeting notices and other information about the Program.

As for your multiple pipeline idea, that is a concept that we looked at and determined was infeasible from a cost perspective, with estimates as high as \$12 billion just for facilities. You are correct in your discussion about the probable benefits to water supply of such a project, however, the CALFED effort is premised upon meeting multiple needs and objectives.

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**CALFED Agencies**

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**California**  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

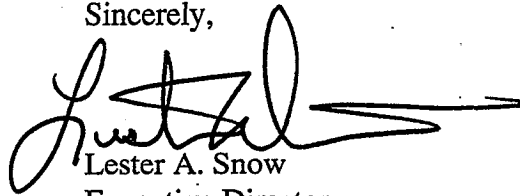
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Despite our eliminating this specific concept from further consideration, I want to assure you that the reason you gave for informing the Speaker and the Governor of it ( i.e. the ability to better capture high outflows when available) is the foundational concept upon which we are building our proposed solutions. We are seeking to improve the capacity of the Bay-Delta system, both environmentally and physically, to capture such excess flows when they are not necessary to provide ecosystem benefits. While it is true that some water will be "lost" by transporting flows in river channels rather than pipelines, there are other environmental benefits which would otherwise not be achieved. And, again, the cost impacts are reduced while environmental benefits are enhanced.

With respect to improving flood management in conjunction with water supply enhancement, we are investigating the development of new off-stream storage facilities above the Delta that could receive flood flows for storage and use (for all beneficial uses) later in the year rather than simply flowing downstream and out to the Bay and ocean. Similarly, one of our objectives is to allow the current physical capacity of the Delta pumping plants to be utilized when sufficient flows are in the system and to have enhanced storage capability south of the Delta as well.

Thank you again for your interest. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. I encourage you to continue to engage on this most important of issues.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

cc: Governor Pete Wilson  
Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante  
Secretary for Resources, Douglas P. Wheeler